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Biblical Work and Workers.

Prof. George S. Burroughs, who has for several years occupied the chair of Biblical Literature in Amherst College, and has been prominent in the movement for securing biblical instruction in colleges generally, has accepted the presidency of Wabash College.

Mrs. Varten writes from Nazareth concerning the Bible in that place. A Bible Depot was first opened there in 1872, and it has now become one of the best shops, the resort of those who come to buy, or to read, or to hear the Word of God. The greatest distribution of the Scriptures is among the adherents of the Greek Church, and the Mohammedans. The Roman Catholics wish it, but are not permitted to have it; however, they do secretly possess them to some extent.

Rev. Charles Martin has been made assistant professor of Old Testament Exegesis and Criticism, and Rev. James S. Dennis, D. D., is to give instruction in Semitic languages, at Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. R. R. Lloyd, of Geneva, Ill., has been appointed to the chair of New Testament Greek and Exegesis in the Pacific Seminary. Prof. J. Rendel Harris, formerly of the Johns Hopkins University, has been given the newly founded lectureship in Palæography at the University of Cambridge.

The death of Joseph Ernest Renan occurred in Paris on the second day of October, closing a life of sixty-nine years. He was a great scholar and a great artist in literature. He made important contributions to the study of the Semitic languages, and of Semitic history. He gained greatest prominence by his *Life of Jesus*, although that was not his best work. He was brilliant in style, and to a certain extent sympathetic with the Christ, but was unhistorical in his temper. His influence was great, and mixedly good and bad. His scholarship no one will question.

A Jewish Anthology is being issued in Germany, under the editorship of Dr. Winter and the Rabbinic scholar Dr. Wuensche. The full title is "Jewish Literature since the Close of the Canon, a Poetic and Prose Anthology, with Biographical and Literary Introductions." Three numbers have already appeared, including translations from the Apocrypha, Philo, Josephus, the Letter of Aristeas, the so-called Sibylline Oracles, the Targums, the Mishnah, the Tosephta, and the Jerusalem Talmud. The introduction gives concisely much valuable information concerning this Jewish literature, and the whole work will prove interesting and helpful to biblical students.

Dr. Budde, of Strassburg University, one of the first Old Testament scholars, speaks thus appreciatively of "The Genesis of Genesis," by Rev. Benj. Bacon, recently reviewed in this journal: "Your volume surpasses Kautsch and Socin by far, not only by more delicate work, not only in your positive reconstructive criticism, but also and especially in this respect, that it introduces the reader much better to the subject, affording to the beginner everything he requires for the shaping of his conclusions and for the schooling

of his critical powers, and at the same time abundant material to the mature investigator. If we in Germany had such a book, it would be the greatest blessing."

The volumes of the *Expositor's Bible* next to appear, and soon, are Vol. II. of The Acts of the Apostles, by Dr. G. T. Stokes, and Vol. I. of The Psalms, by Dr. Alex. Maclaren. This closes the fifth series. The sixth series is now announced, to be issued during 1892-3. The volumes are as follows: The Epistle to the Philippians, by Rev. Prin. Rainy, D. D. The First Book of Kings, by Archd. F. W. Farrar, D. D. The Book of Joshua, by Prof. W. G. Blaikie, D. D., LL. D. The Book of Psalms, Vol. II., by Rev. Alex. Maclaren, D. D. The Book of Daniel, by Prof. J. M. Fuller, M. A. Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther, by Prof. W. F. Adeney, M. A. There is great promise in this list, and the publication of these works will be awaited with eagerness.

A little volume of interest and value has just appeared, discussing "The Bible and English Prose Style," the author being Prof. Albert S. Cook, of Yale University. Its object is to present the relation of the biblical English of the version of 1611 to modern English generally. Choice specimens of Scripture are quoted, comments upon the influence of the Bible or the English language from able critics and scholars are given, and Prof. Cook himself discusses the theme with acuteness and skill. The subject is one which merits careful study and attention. Perhaps no one cares to say that the King James version was inspired, in the sense that that statement is made regarding the originals, but it is notable that the King James version came in some way to be such English as has scarce ever been written, and proved a mighty influence in determining English prose style.

A papyrus manuscript was discovered some months ago in Egypt, which some suppose to be the oldest copy extant of portions of the Old Testament books of Zechariah and Malachi. The pages of this manuscript are about ten inches long and seven inches wide, each containing twenty-eight lines of writing, both sides of the sheet being used. A line contains from fourteen to seventeen letters, and there are no intervals between the words. The sheets were bound into book form after a primitive fashion. The papyrus is in a fair state of preservation, and is believed to date from the third or fourth century. Some authorities consider it genuine, and an account of the document was given to the Congress of Orientalists which assembled lately in London. A critical examination of this old fragment tends to the conclusion that it was copied from some excellent original of the Septuagint Bible, and some of its readings surpass the present Septuagint texts in clearness of expression and simplicity of grammar.

Prof. Charles Horswell, Ph. D., of Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill., has just issued a "Synoptical Chart of the Gospels," which should be owned and used by every careful student of the New Testament. The Life of Christ is divided historically into nine parts, each of which is again subdivided topically. Then the material bearing upon each topic stands opposite, in one or more of four columns, assigned respectively to each of the four Gospels, according as the topic itself is recorded in one or more than one of them. A certain portion of an inch of space up and down is allotted for each verse of the narrative, and each Gospel has a particular color for its material, so that one can see at a glance in how many Gospels a given topic is recorded, and

how much space relatively it has in each. The chronological peculiarities of the Fourth Gospel are easily seen, and the individual nature of the major portion of its history. For the purpose of studying a harmony of the Life of Christ, and for studying the interrelations and peculiarities of the Gospels, such a chart is necessary and of the highest service. The presentation given may be relied upon as being fully in accord with the latest and best scholarship upon the Gospels. The Chart is about two feet wide and three feet long, designed for Bible class as well as individual use. Inquiries may be made of the author.

The right has been granted by the Turkish Government to construct a railway from Acre to Damascus. The line, 120 miles in length, will start from the Ports of Acre and Haifa, and unite immediately to the East of Haifa, proceeding across the eastern foot of Mount Carmel, thence across the Esdraelon plain in the neighborhood of the towns of Nazareth, Nain, Jezreel, and Beisan, to the River Jordan, along the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee to the Hauran plateau (the Bashan of old, which produces fine crops of wheat and barley,) and thence across the plain of Damascus, along the eastern base of Mount Hermon, to the southern gate of the city. For the present, says the *Jewish Chronicle*, this will form the terminus of the line, but some day it may be indefinitely extended, as it will constitute the main artery for branches north and south, while eastward it is the beginning of a trunk railway connecting the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, a further extension through Persia and Beluchistan, making a complete railway route to India. The engineers are now engaged in making the final surveys for the railway, and it is understood that an early beginning will be made with the actual work of construction.

The Summer School which was held at Oxford the past season met the expectations of all who were interested in it, which is saying not a little. It was the first attempt to teach theology in vacation time. The leading biblical scholars of England were the instructors, and the large numbers who received their instruction were chiefly ministers who availed themselves of the fine opportunity to gain new knowledge and inspiration. Prof. Marcus Dods gave a course upon "The Teaching of Jesus," discussing the kingdom of God as presented by Christ, His claim to be King, the place of miracles in Christ's work and teaching, the righteousness of the kingdom, Christ's teaching as to salvation, and the eschatology of the kingdom. Concerning the latter topic he affirmed that Christ gave no hint of probation after death, and that while God cannot but seek the salvation of the lost, the tendency of character is to become fixed. He dwelt upon the ethical aspect of Christianity, as being the vital and practical one. Prof. Bruce, in his lectures, argued for a theory of the universe which will admit the miraculous. The physical resurrection of Christ remains, and it alone can account for the facts, but it continues to be a mystery. He strenuously defended the historical basis of faith in the Gospels. Prin. Fairbairn's course was upon "The Place of Christ in Modern Theology," showing that modern theology is Christocentric. Prof. Sanday gave six lectures upon "The Theology of St. Paul." Canon Driver gave a short course on Hosea, and Prin. Edwards one upon Hebrews. The attendance and interest which characterized the sessions, the supreme value of the lectures, and the general success of the undertaking, were a guarantee that the Summer School of Theology was needed, and would be repeated in 1893. It is conjectured that it may be held next time in Edinburgh.